

April 28, 2011

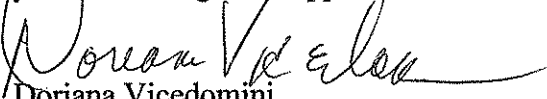
At the age of four our son was diagnosis with autism by our local school district. They also handed me a large binder filled with resources and organizations for me to contact for support and direction. We lived in Louisiana at that time. One of the first family organizations I contacted recommend I apply for services through a Medicaid waiver. When I did I was told the average wait for services was five years. We were already fully immersed in therapy treatments: ABA, special education preschool, speech, OT, AIT, biological interventions...basically anything and everything that could be done to recover our son from autism. His condition was quickly improving so to me five years seem a lifetime away and I thought his need for support services would be gone. The intake worker encouraged me to apply just the same.

Thank goodness I did. His name came to the top of the list about four and a half years later. I was exhausted by then. I had no family in the area. My husband was in denial still and reacted as many husbands do. They become very involved in work and leave all the rest to their wives. Many just physically leave because they are not able to handle the demands and pressures put on a family after the autism diagnosis. When the waiver services kicked in I felt like I got my life back. I can see how some families would not have made it without these types of supports.

After Hurricane Katrina we moved to Connecticut to be closer to my family. We were not able to go back home because of severe damages to it. Our business was interrupted. My husband stayed in Louisiana for two years cleaning up the mess allowing us to liquidate what was left of our assets.

I was shocked to learn Connecticut did not have Medicaid support services available.

Since then I have been busy advocating for services for individuals on the autism spectrum without mental retardation. .Your support is greatly appreciated and I thank you for moving these applications forward for approval.


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